

Serial No. To be assigned
Docket No. LWEF:104aUS
Prelim. Amdt. dated: December 8, 2003

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] A further advantage of the invention is that the workstation around the microscope can be much better organized. Even with large microscopes having many controllable functions, it is often not possible to house all the control units in the microscope stand. Additional units for the corresponding controllers are thus required on the workstation, which negatively affects organization and ergonomics. A further advantage of the invention is that the control box possesses the same shape and configuration regardless of the application.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] The subject matter of the invention is schematically depicted in the drawings and will be described below with reference to the Figures, in which:

FIG. 1 shows a microscope according to the existing art; and

FIG. 2 shows an automatic microscope according to the ~~invention-invention~~;

FIG. 3 shows another embodiment of an automatic microscope according to the invention; and

FIG. 4 shows a further embodiment of an automatic microscope according to the invention.

Please add the following two (2) new paragraphs after paragraph [0021]:

[0021.1] A further embodiment of the automatic microscope system 30 according to the invention is depicted in FIG. 3. Identical elements as already disclosed in Fig. 2 are marked with the same reference numeral. The control and power supply unit 34 is configured such that it is suitable to take up at least one slide-in standardized circuit board 50. The control and power supply unit 34 and consequently the circuit boards 50 can be used for various types of the microscope stand. The at least one circuit board can be used for controlling at least one motor or

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lamp housed within said microscope stand. Said box possesses the same physical dimensions regardless of the use of an upright or inverted microscope. Control and power supply unit 34 itself is connected to microscope stand 32 via at least one distribution cable 38 which comprises electrical lines (not depicted) and optionally also a light guide (not depicted). Sufficient space is also present in the box so that additional circuit boards 50 for controlling microscope 31 can be installed as applicable.

[0021.2] FIG. 4 shows a further embodiment of the present invention. Automatic microscope system 30 comprises a microscope stand 32, a control and power supply unit 34, and a computer unit or control panel 36. Computer unit 36 is connected to control and power supply unit 34 via a data cable 40. Control and power supply unit 34 itself is connected to microscope stand 32 via at least one distribution cable 38 which comprises electrical lines (not depicted). Light guide 42 is separate from data cable 38 in this embodiment. By using a light guide, the light generated by lamp 44 in control and power supply unit 34 is transported into microscope stand 32, where it is coupled in suitable fashion into the optical beam path of microscope stand 32 and illuminates a specimen.